

### **Remarks**

Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-8 will be pending in this application.

Applicant has canceled claim 9 without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

Applicant has amended the claims to conform to U.S. patent practice and not for reasons of patentability. Applicant has not raised any issue of new matter.

**Conclusion**

It is believed that the present claims define patentable subject matter. Favorable action is solicited.

Should it be believed that a conference would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2334 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,



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